



2026 Subspecialty Qualifying Examination

Including:

Complex Family Planning

Gynecologic Oncology

Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery

Certification demonstrates to the public that a physician and medical specialist meets nationally recognized standards for education, knowledge, experience, and skills and maintains their certification through continuous learning and practice improvement in order to provide high quality care in a specific medical specialty.

This Bulletin, issued in September 2025, represents the official statement of the requirements in effect for the 2026 Subspecialty Qualifying Examination. All associated [dates and fees](#) can be found on the ABOG website.

All questions and inquiries can be submitted [here](#).

[Disclaimers](#)

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Introduction



ABOG certification is a two-step process that is completely voluntary. The Qualifying Examination is the first of the two steps in ABOG's initial certification process.

Eligibility Requirements

1. **Specialty Qualifying Examination** A candidate may not apply for the Subspecialty Qualifying Examination unless they have previously passed the Specialty Qualifying Examination for Certification in Obstetrics and Gynecology.
2. **Unrestricted Medical License (if applicable)** It is not necessary to have a medical license to sit for the Qualifying Examination. However, if a medical license is held, it must be unrestricted without conditions (see further information [here](#) for Disqualification from the Qualifying Examination.)
3. **Length of Training** Candidates for certification are required to complete training in an ACGME-accredited fellowship program in their subspecialty no later than **September 30** of the same year the Qualifying Examination is taken. Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Gynecologic Oncology, Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery candidates must have completed a minimum of 32 of 36 months of training at the time of application. Complex Family Planning candidates must have completed a minimum of 20 of 24 months of training at the time of application.
4. **Allocation of Time and Curriculum** In order to take the Qualifying Examination, the candidate must have completed the required experiences during fellowship and met the [curriculum requirements](#) for their subspecialty.
5. **Leave of Absence** All leave time must be in accordance with the [ABOG Fellowship Leave Policy](#) outlined on the ABOG website. Extensions of training must have an educational plan for the continued training with specific educational and clinical experience goals and objectives to be achieved. This educational plan must include a description of what training

was missed, how the missed training is being attained, and a block diagram that covers the entire length of training. This plan must be submitted to ABOG for approval [here](#).

Foregoing vacation time or necessary sick leave to shorten the required months of training or to “make up” for time lost due to sickness or other absence is not permitted.

Fellows who have their fellowship extended may sit for the Subspecialty Qualifying Examination in July if they will have completed the required months of training by September 30 of the same year. The results of their examination will not be released unless and until all Fellowship Training Attestations have been completed. If a fellow does not complete fellowship by September 30, the results of their examination will be voided. Additionally, if ABOG does not receive all completed Fellowship Training Attestations by January 1 of the next year, the results of the examination will be voided.

6. **Limitation of Eligibility** All candidates must achieve board certification in their subspecialty within eight years of the completion of their fellowship training. Physicians who fail to become certified within eight years will be required to complete a minimum of six months of supervised practice at a hospital affiliated with an ACGME-accredited training program to regain eligibility to apply for the Subspecialty Qualifying Examination. For additional information on regaining eligibility, please see [ABOG’s Policy on Regaining Eligibility for Subspecialty Certification](#). Once the supervised practice is completed, the physician will have four years to become certified.
7. **Moral and Ethical Behavior** The candidate must have demonstrated good moral and ethical behavior in the practice of medicine and in interactions with peers, other medical personnel, and patients. A felony conviction, even if unrelated to the practice of medicine, will be considered evidence of failure to meet this standard.
8. **Falsification of Information** Falsification of any information or failure to disclose any adverse action will result in a deferral of a candidate’s eligibility to sit for the Qualifying Examination for a period of at least three years. If the candidate is allowed to sit for the examination at the end of the deferral period, the candidate must meet all requirements in effect at that time.
9. **Completion and Defense of Thesis** For those completing fellowship in 2026 and on, the candidate must successfully defend their Thesis prior to June 15th in the last year of fellowship as an eligibility criterion for the Subspecialty QE. The Thesis, and completed Thesis Defense Form, must be uploaded to the candidate’s ABOG portal no later than June 15th, 11:59 PM CDT.
 - a. If the thesis defense must be repeated due to unsuccessful prior defense, defense must be successfully completed by June 15th for the fellow to take the Subspecialty QE in July of the year the fellow completes fellowship.
 - b. If successful defense takes place after June 15th, the fellow will delay taking the Subspecialty QE until the next exam year.
 - c. If successful defense never takes place, the fellow will not be eligible to take the Subspecialty QE.

Information about thesis preparation, the Thesis Defense Form, and acceptable types of research can be found [here](#).

For those completing fellowship prior to 2026, the thesis is an eligibility criterion for the [Subspecialty Certifying Examination](#).

Candidates must meet all of the requirements in the *Bulletin* for the year they are applying for the test.

Fellowship Training Attestations

Fellow

At the end of their training the fellow will be expected to attest to the following:

1. Compliance with the [ABOG Professionalism, Professional Standing, and Professional Conduct Policy](#).
2. The educational objectives of their training program have been met.
3. They have completed and defended a thesis that meets ABOG certification standards.
4. They can provide autonomous clinical care in (subspecialty) and serve competently as a consultant for women's health on the care team.

Program Director

Beginning 31 days prior to the completion of each fellow's training, the Program Director will attest, on behalf of the program, that each fellow has:

1. Demonstrated good moral and ethical character, medical professionalism, and professional conduct.
2. Demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to enter autonomous practice in [subspecialty];
3. Satisfactorily completed the requirements of this fellowship program.
4. Completed 36 months [24 for CFP] of graduate medical education in an [subspecialty] fellowship program(s);
5. Taken leaves of absence and vacation within the limits described in the [ABOG Fellowship Leave Policy](#).
6. Completed and defended a thesis that meets ABOG certification standards.

Results of the examination will not be released until all Fellowship Training Attestations are complete.

New attestations are not necessary for those candidates who have completed their fellowship training and sat for the Qualifying Examination in a prior year, as long as ABOG has record of the fellowship training attestations or appropriate affidavits.

Overview of Fees and Deadlines

All [dates, fees, and deadlines](#) for the ABOG's Subspecialty Qualifying Examination can be found on the ABOG website.

If a decision is made by ABOG that a candidate has not met the requirements for admission to the examination, the candidate may appeal the decision by contacting ABOG through [our website](#). Such appeals will be forwarded to the appropriate ABOG Committee for reconsideration. If the appeal is successful, no late fees will apply. All appeals must be received no later than one month prior to the examination date. If the candidate's appeal is not successful, the application fee will not be refunded. Please refer to the [ABOG's Assessment Fees and Refunds Policy](#) for more information.

Application Process

The applicant must supply ABOG with an email address as part of the application process and notify ABOG of any change in this email address. The examination fee must be paid in full by credit card at the time of the application. All fees are quoted and must be paid in US dollars. Please visit the ABOG website to review the 2026 Subspecialty Qualifying Examination [Dates, Fees, and Deadlines](#).

An approval email will be sent to each applicant at the email address currently listed in the Profile Section of the applicant's personal ABOG portal when they are approved to take the Qualifying Examination.

Scheduling Process

The approval email will contain information for contacting a Pearson VUE Testing Center to schedule a seat for the examination. After the approval email from ABOG is received, the candidate must contact Pearson VUE to obtain a seat for the examination. Candidates are urged to obtain a seat as soon as possible after notification of approval to avoid long-distance travel to a site with an available seat since ABOG-reserved seats held at Pearson VUE centers will not be held past [seat block release deadline date](#). After that date, it will be harder for candidates to reserve a seat at their preferred site. Seats in individual cities are limited and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. ABOG will not refund any portion of the test fee if a candidate is not able to reserve a seat at their preferred testing center. Once candidates have secured a seat, Pearson VUE will send a confirmation email with details to include the test center address. Candidates are encouraged to save this email as ABOG is unable to resend Pearson VUE seat reservation emails.

If special accommodations are required, those requests must be received no later than the close of the application period and should be submitted [here](#). It may not be possible to accommodate requests received after the close of the application period. It is the candidate's responsibility to complete all steps to confirm the accommodation with the Pearson VUE Accommodations Scheduling Department. A confirmed accommodation will be reflected on the seat reservation email sent by Pearson VUE. For more information, please review [ABOG's Accommodation Policies](#).

Exam Content

The candidate will be expected to demonstrate skills necessary to apply the appropriate knowledge to the management of clinical problems. These skills include:

1. obtaining needed information;
2. interpretation and use of data obtained;
3. selection, instituting, and implementing appropriate care;
4. management of complications; and
5. follow-up and continuing care.

The examination consists of 230 single-best answer, multiple-choice questions. Many of the questions are constructed to be thought-provoking and problem-solving. For most questions, all possible answers may be plausible, but only one answer is the most correct. The Qualifying Examination will only be given in English.

ABOG does not sponsor or recommend review courses in preparation for the qualifying examination. However, ABOG does publish [common abbreviations](#) that may be used in ABOG Examinations, as well as [Content Outlines \(Exam Blueprints\)](#) that list specific topics assessed on the Qualifying Examination.

Exam Administration

The Specialty Qualifying Examination is scheduled to last approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes. Candidates will receive information after registering on the [Pearson VUE Testing Center](#) website concerning the location of their examination, as well as the time they must arrive. Candidates will be required to schedule their examination seat reservation with an 8:00 am start time in their time zone and at a Pearson VUE location in the United States or Canada. Requests to take the examination at a Pearson VUE location outside of the US or Canada will be considered if the reason for the request is out of the control of the candidate (e.g., military deployment).

Specific conduct and expectations on day of testing at the Pearson VUE Testing Center can be found [here](#), including the Test Security agreement.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances on the day of testing, such as early termination of an examination or an interrupted examination, that may disrupt or cancel your scheduled appointment, Pearson VUE will offer an option to reschedule your appointment within 5 business days of the original date (on or before the Friday of the week of the exam), and will strive to accommodate your preferred location, date, and time – pending availability at a given center. If the candidate does not take their exam within the required timeframe, the examination fee will not be refunded and will not be credited toward future applications.

Results and Scoring

The results of the Subspecialty Qualifying Examination will be reported online to each candidate on or before the last Friday in October. We recognize waiting close to 12 weeks for these important results is difficult and the format of the examination creates an expectation for immediate feedback. Please be assured during this post-examination period, extensive quality assurance checks take place to ensure your test result is fair and accurate. For example, content on the exam is re-reviewed to identify potentially flawed questions. If ABOG determines a question with more than one correct answer (or no correct answer) was on the exam, test-takers will not be penalized for that item.

When results are released, ABOG will provide the candidate their scaled test score in addition to the result of “pass” or “fail.” Each candidate, regardless of whether they pass or fail, will be provided with the percent scored in each of the major topic areas. The cut-point for passing the exam is determined using standard setting methodology every 3-5 years and is equated statistically between that time.

In order for ABOG to release a result, the individual and their fellowship program must have completed the Fellowship Training Attestations verifying completion of training. Additionally, **if these attestations are not completed by January 1 of the following year, the results of the examination will be voided.**

As part of the application process, the applicant will be required to irrevocably agree that the results of the applicant’s examination may be made available to the Program Director(s) of any fellowship program(s) in which the applicant may have participated or in which the applicant is currently involved, and/or the American Council of Graduate Medical Education

(ACGME) for any and all purposes. The candidate will also be given the opportunity to release their scaled score on the examination to their current Program Director. Furthermore, the applicant will be required to release and agree to indemnify and hold ABOG and its officers, directors, and employees harmless of and from any and all claims the applicant may have with regard to the effect or impact upon the applicant of the release of the applicant's examination results to the applicant's Program Director or the ACGME and waive any rights the applicant may have, if any, to have the examination results maintained in confidence.

For more information, see [ABOG's Policy on Results, Rescores, Appeals](#), and [ABOG's Policy for Requests for Re- Examination](#).